

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announces \$9.325 million for various San Antonio, Del Rio, Eagle Pass projects in FY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD), Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS), and Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bills.

"As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am working to secure funding for transportation infrastructure development, to begin development of a border law enforcement training center, and to expand community services throughout my district," said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez. "This is just the first step in the funding process for these transportation, healthcare, border law enforcement and job training initiatives. We still have a long way to go before these funding bills are sent to the President for his final approval, but I would say that this is a very positive first step."

Within the THUD, LHHS, and CJS Appropriations bills, Congressman Rodriguez secured funding for several projects in San Antonio, Eagle Pass and Del Rio:

- **\$6.5 million for VIA Metropolitan Transit**, to modernize VIA facilities and develop a Bus Rapid Transit Corridor to improve mass transit to key employment centers in San Antonio;
- **\$1 million for roadway construction in Del Rio**, to complete a two-lane paved road connecting Highway 90 to Amistad Lake, including a National Parks Service (NPS) boat ramp and a Homeland Security (DHS) boat ramp at Box Canyon;
- **\$600,000 to build a border law enforcement training center in Eagle Pass**, providing regional, nation, and international public safety training for law enforcement to address homeland security national preparedness goals;
- **\$350,000 for at risk youth programs through Baptist Child and Family Services**, who work with families in six counties on or near the border through their Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program. The program provides intensive counseling services to youth in at-risk situations and their families with the goal of reducing family conflicts, child abuse, and preventing problems of truancy and delinquent behaviors before they enter the juvenile justice system;

- **\$300,000 for the City of San Antonio to improve rail safety through the Neighborhood Initiative**, a program including construction of a rail safety training classroom, incident management systems for first responders, and building infrastructure for safe regional rail delivery;
- **\$300,000 for construction of a new community health center in San Antonio - El Centro de Barrio through CentroMed**, which will provide comprehensive health care to 24,000 low-income and uninsured individuals;
- **\$200,000 for the San Antonio Food Bank** to move to a new warehouse and purchase additional equipment like forklifts and pallet jackets to support enhanced services;
- **\$75,000 for Project QUEST, Inc.**, a program that provides pre-college preparatory classes, occupational skills training, job placement, and support services to San Antonio area residents.

The FY 2008 THUD, LHHS, and CJS Appropriations bills must still be approved by the full House and will then proceed through a Conference Committee with the Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Congressman Rodriguez is a Member of the House Appropriations Committee.